

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 A-01
SY-05 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 /087 W
-----231626 013307 /44

O R 231545Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5832

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US, GW

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SITUATION IN UGANDA

REF: BONN 3218

THE FOLLOWING REPORT FROM THE FRG EMBASSY IN KAMPALA
WAS PASSED TO US BY THE FONOFF DESK OFFICER FOR
UGANDA. ALTHOUGH DATED FEBRUARY 19, IT DID
NOT REACH THE DESK UNTIL 3 DAYS LATER.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE VERY
TENSE. GOVERNMENT USES MEDICAL BULLETINS IN AN
ATTEMPT TO POINT OUT THAT ARCHBISHOP AND TWO MINISTERS
WERE KILLED BY AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. EMBASSY LEARNED
FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE THREE BODIES -- WHICH
SHOWED SIGNS OF NUMEROUS BULLET HOLES -- WERE FIRST
BROUGHT INTO STATE-OWNED MULAGO HOSPITAL BY MISTAKE.
THE BODIES WERE PICKED UP BY MILITARY POLICE AND IT IS
RUMORED THAT THE BODIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO THE
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HOME VILLAGES OF THE VICTIMS. IT IS AT LEAST DOUBTFUL
WHETHER THE FUNERAL SERVICE ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED BY THE
CHURCH TO TAKE PLACE AT NAMIREMBE CATHEDRAL AT NOON ON
FEBRUARY 20 WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE. THE GOVERNMENT
WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO PREVENT DEMONSTRATIONS
SHOULD THE FUNERAL SERVICE IN KAMPALA TAKE PLACE, ALL
THE MORE SO IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT DELEGATIONS OF THE

ACP COUNTRIES WILL BEGIN ARRIVING TODAY FOR A CONFERENCE OF THEIR MINISTERS OF FINANCE THAT IS DUE TO BEGIN IN KAMPALA ON FEBRUARY 21.

2. IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT MEASURES AGAINST THE PROTESTANT CHURCH AND THE TRIBES OF THE LANGIS AND ACHOLIS WERE PREPARED LONG IN ADVANCE. IT IS AT LEAST DOUBTFUL THAT A COUP HAD ACTUALLY BEEN PREPARED TO TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 25 AND THAT THIS WAS UNCOVERED. MANY OBSERVERS HOLD THAT THIS ALLEGED PUTSCH WAS FABRICATED BY THE REGIME TO GET RID OF UNDESIRED OPPOSITION. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT A PUTSCH MAY HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTED FROM DAR ES SALAAM WITH THE HELP OF THE CHINESE.

3. MEASURES AGAINST THE PROTESTANT CHURCH MAY HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY THE SELF-CONFIDENT AND COURAGEOUS ATTITUDE OF THE LATE ARCHBISHOP AND LARGE-SCALE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CHURCH OF UGANDA. THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE CHURCH OF UGANDA BY WESTERN COUNTRIES MAY LIKEWISE HAVE DISPLEASED THE GOVERNMENT FOR SOME TIME. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE HELP EXTENDED BY WESTERN CHURCHES WILL BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE MEASURES OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. POPULATION ON THE WHOLE IS EXTRAORDINARILY INTIMIDATED. REPUTABLE BUT UNOFFICIAL UGANDANS HAVE LET IT BE KNOWN IN TALKS WITH WESTERN DIPLOMATS THAT MOVES ARE EXPECTED BY WESTERN COUNTRIES TO PUT AN END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO AMIN'S REGIME OF TERROR OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, TO EXPOSE IT FOR THE MURDER OF THE ARCHBISHOP AND TWO MINISTERS. THIS EMBASSY FEELS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE VERY EXPEDIENT TO SUBMIT NOTES OF PROTEST IMPUTING THAT ARCHBISHOP AND MINISTERS WERE MURDERED; IT WOULD RATHER SUGGEST WE ACT THROUGH THE UN, HRC, OR EC. THUS FAR, I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HOLY SEE THAT THE POPE SENT A LETTER TO THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT VIA THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN GENEVA. ELLERKMANN

END TEXT.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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